

Remarks

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Logan et al ('551). Independent Claims 1 and 6 have now been amended to more clearly distinguish from Logan et al. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made". Logan et al may hereafter be referred to as "Logan" merely for the sake of brevity but this is always a reference to Logan et al ('551).

Applicants' claimed invention teaches time shifting as a comprehensive method and system. This differs from the recording and time-shifted viewing of a single channel. In order to complete the paradigm of time-shifted television viewing while retaining the methods of operation currently enjoyed by a TV viewer, multiple channels from each device must be recorded simultaneously and these channels must be synchronized and time-shifted precisely, as a group. To accomplish this, as described in Claims 1 and 6, Applicants teach that multiple tuners are used to tune into each individual channel, and multiple streams are captured in multiple circular buffers. This is significant because the multiple buffers are used so that as the user changes channels, the material from each channel has already been recorded and is ready for viewing in a time-shifted mode

Logan teaches a device which accepts multiple input sources from separate devices, as most modern audio/video equipment does. This would enable a user of a Logan device to attach various inputs such as a VCR, cable TV, satellite TV and so forth. However, Logan does not teach or suggest the use of multiple buffers in order to complete the paradigm shift for conventional TV viewing. In fact, it is not taught or suggested by Logan to use multiple buffers because Logan does not address the need for a complete time-shifted viewing experience for multiple channels. Logan teaches the recording of TV signals only, but does not teach or suggest the use of multiple buffers in order to facilitate the viewing of all channels in order to enhance and facilitate a time-shifted viewing experience.

In contrast, as described by Claims 1 and 6, the present invention teaches time-shifting using multiple buffers which are specifically geared towards multiple channels to complete the

paradigm shift to a time-shifted but otherwise conventional TV viewing experience, right down to channel surfing. By using multiple buffers, it is possible to time-shift all channels such that the viewing experience is facilitated and enhanced. As previously discussed, Logan is not concerned with facilitating the viewing experience and as such does not teach or suggest the use of multiple buffers.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach the unique aspects of the present invention as claimed, namely the use of multiple buffers in order to delay the viewing of one or more programs. In light of this information, along with the requested amendments to the claims, Applicants' believe the present application is now in condition for allowance, and such reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Submitted for

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

1. (twice amended) A method for time-shifted viewing of broadcast or selected audio/video programs comprising:

the step of simultaneously receiving more than one broadcast video/audio program from one or more sources; and

the step of storing each of said programs as data in one or more [a] cyclic [buffer] buffers wherein upon being filled said cyclic [buffer begins] buffers begin replacing the oldest of said data with the newest of said data; and

the step of simultaneously providing playback control of said data independently from said step of storing said programs wherein said playback control comprises random access play, stop, pause, rewind and fast-forward functions;

whereby said time-shifted viewing is delayed viewing of one or more programs in progress [selectively delayed relative to initiation of said broadcast audio/video programs] and [which] may be initiated and controlled simultaneously with said storing of said programs.

6. (twice amended) A system for time-shifted viewing of broadcast or selected audio/video programs comprising:

video input means for simultaneously receiving more than one broadcast video/audio program from one or more sources; and

one or more cyclic buffer means for storing said programs as program data in a cyclical fashion wherein upon being filled, said cyclic [buffer begins] buffers begin replacing the oldest data with the newest of said data and is operable for simultaneous reading and writing of the said data; and

viewing playback means for providing playback control of said data independently from the storing of said programs wherein said playback control comprises random access playback, stop, pause, rewind and fast-forward functions;

whereby said time-shifted viewing is delayed viewing of one or more programs in progress [selectively delayed relative to initiation of said broadcast audio/video programs] and [which] may be initiated and controlled simultaneously with said storing of said programs.